

May 24, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20857-0003

Re: Docket No. 98N-1265 - Amending of the MOU

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that legislation has been drafted that would seriously inhibit and/or prohibit the right of compounding pharmacists to serve the public's medical needs by performing the services they are known and well respected for. At the same time, this proposed legislation would deprive me of my right to choose the form of medication I wish to take, and the pharmacy I wish to order it from.

Many people, myself included, are unable to swallow large pills or capsules that are prescribed for them. In addition, standard dosages that are acceptable for some, are unacceptable and perhaps even harmful for others. The beauty and uniqueness of compounding pharmacies is in their ability to fill your prescription in exactly the best way possible for you, the individual. These pharmacies work directly with the patient and the physician to make certain the proper dosage or form of medication is compounded.

Frankly, up until a few years ago, I never knew such pharmacies existed or that their services were available to the general consumer. When I began taking hormone replacement therapy and needed alternative ways of taking some of the medication, I discovered these unsung heroes of medicine, and was amazed at what they could do to make my life easier! For example, I learned that if I needed to take 25 milligrams of a medicine and it only came in 50 milligrams, these pharmacies could make me a pill in the exact strength that I needed - with less additives, and at a more convenient size! I also discovered hormones in cream form to rub on the skin, for those with digestive or liver problems, or for those who just don't choose to "pop pills" all the time. Compounding pharmacies have the ability to utilize extracts, liquids, and sub-lingual medications as well as the creams, in order to individualize and perfect the exact strength and dosage that the physician thinks is best for the patient.

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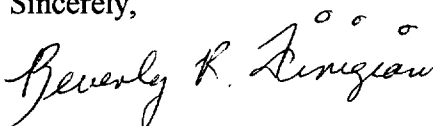
I now buy more of my prescriptions at a compounding pharmacy than I do at a regular pharmacy. The service is better, and you get to talk, one on one, with the pharmacist whenever you choose to. The cost is not more (and in some cases is less!) than conventional medications at conventional pharmacies.

In summary, I feel that "in its present form, the MOU, as well as the Compounding Section 503A of the Modernization Act, severely restricts the rights of physicians and patients to obtain healthcare products from the provider of their choice, and infringes on the rights of compounding pharmacists to serve the public's medical needs."

Please re-think your position and amend the MOU, allowing these compounding pharmacies to continue to provide their vital services that they are currently providing for the consumer. All of us deserve to be able to choose where we wish to purchase our medications and be able to do so without any difficulty.

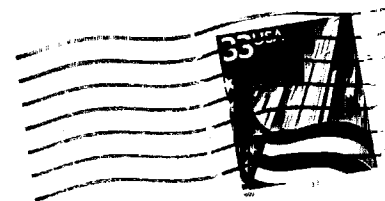
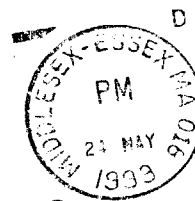
Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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